

of decision because we need to make a decision then whether to reauthorize property tax to finance these schools, and the answer from me, and from most property taxpayers in the state is no, we don't need to do it that way anymore. That is the target date for takeover. I think we need to realize it. I'm not going to stand in the way of the Speaker at this point in time. But we need to be thinking about the long-term solution, and that is to take over the technical community college.

SENATOR CLARK: Senator Vickers.

SENATOR VICKERS: Mr. President, members. I rise to support Speaker Nichol in this motion that he is making. Senator Lamb indicated there is another bill out. That's true. The issue is clearly germane, however. We held a hearing on these two bills at the same time. LB 881, as it was presently drafted, is a short-term fix. LB 889 is more of a long-term solution. It is narrowed down so it affects only two areas of this state, two of the tech school areas. It is necessary if in fact those two areas, in particular the Western area, is to continue to operate at the level that it's operating now. Without 889, or without the mechanism in 889, there is going to be a demand again next year for more reduction in force measures to be taken, depending on what the Legislature does, but the demand is going to be there anyhow because they will have to do it in preparation for a severe cut in the budget if the Legislature, next year, chose to not extend or to change the mechanisms that we are trying to change with 881. I should also point out that Senator Newell does have a bill, Senator Newell and Senator Lamb, that would have a state takeover. Senator Newell spoke about that. I think there is a number of us in rural Nebraska that have some concern about that particular idea. In my opinion it is not, the burden on our property taxes is not brought about by the levy that the tech schools have. The burden on the property taxes is brought about by the levy that the public schools have. I think there is a lot of concern out there about having some local control, having some abilities to make sure that those entities are still out there functioning. State operation is not necessarily the way to bring that about. I think that the